

First Lutheran – St. John Episcopal

21st Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 2015



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Prayer Ventures

These petitions – one for each day this week – are offered as a guide for your own prayer life as together we pray for the needs of the world and give thanks for the ministries of our church.

Sunday, November 8

Jesus' humble sacrifice was for the sake of our broken world. We give thanks for the new life and freedom we have in Jesus and pray that we will live and serve freely for the sake of others in his name.

Monday, November 9

We pray for God's blessings on the long-term response work being done in earthquake-affected areas of Nepal through Lutheran Disaster Response with The Lutheran World Federation, Lutheran World Relief and United Mission to Nepal.

Tuesday, November 10

We remember in our prayers ELCA military chaplains in ministry with men and women who are serving in the U.S. military here and overseas, in areas of conflict and peace.

Wednesday, November 11 *Veterans Day*

On this day, especially, we remember in our prayers and give thanks for the sacrifice and service of men, women and young adults who have served in the military.

Thursday, November 12

We ask God to watch over the children, spouses and families of all those who are serving in the military and that the, a community of faith.

Friday, November 13

Through baptism we are bound to Christ and the community of all believers. We give thanks for the forgiveness of sins, new life in Christ and the encouragement we receive from our brothers and sisters in Christ for our lifelong baptismal journey.

Saturday, November 14

We pray for boldness to go into our communities and invite our neighbors to worship with us. Through God's word, water, bread and prayer, may we together be nurtured in faith and sent out restored into the world.

Community Thanksgiving Dinner



**Thursday, November 26
at the Raymond Elks Lodge**

Come! Eat! Give Thanks!

This free meal is sponsored by the Willapa Harbor Ministerial Association (WHMA). For more information call the lodge, 942-1292, but all are welcome! First Lutheran / St. John Episcopal will be providing 15 pies. You are also welcome to join in the creation of the pies at the church on Tuesday before Thanksgiving, time to be announced next week. Don't want to make pies? Come keep the cooks company – good community, good pies!

If Thanksgiving Day is in fewer than 3 weeks, can Christmas be far behind?



Did you know that there are already two Christmas stations "on the air" on satellite radio? Rather than bemoan this fact, I'm using it to bring your attention to one way we as a church community can reach out to the children living around us. The WHMA asks our help in providing gifts to children in families where money is too scarce for them to do so themselves.

God's love is shared in many ways—sometimes even with a new doll or puzzle or Viewmaster or colorful socks or nail polishes or Subway gift cards or ??? (fill in with your idea).

November 29 is the *First Sunday in Advent* and that is the day we are asking for donations of new, unwrapped gifts for boys and girls aged 0 – 18. (We are told that items for teenagers are especially needed.) Next time you hear a Christmas song in a store or on the radio or television, won't you remember to pick up something special for one of God's little ones? Thanks be to God for you.

**Sunday, December 6
is
The 2nd Sunday of Advent
and
The Feast Day of Saint Nicholas**



Before December gets too busy on all your calendars, please join us after worship for a ham dinner with all the fixins (YOURS). You are invited to bring your favorite side dish to go along with the ham which will be provided by Faith Guild. We will also enjoy a Christmas carol sing-a-long. Its unlikely that it will snow but let's get in the festive spirit!

♪ Fa la la la la ♪ la la la la ♪

On the calendar....

Birthdays

November 12..... MARY POPOVITCH
November 21 RYKER VAUGHN
November 22..... THELMA CRAWFORD
November 23..... VIRGINIA CARLSON

Anniversaries

November 23..... BOB & MARCIA UDD
November 29..... RALPH & KITTY TURNER

Are we missing your birthday or anniversary? Please let us know and we will update our directory.

Bible Study Monday, Nov. 9 at 10 AM

Sisters in Christ Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 10 AM

Diabetic Cooking Class Tuesday, Nov. 10

AA Meetings Mondays and Fridays at 12 Noon

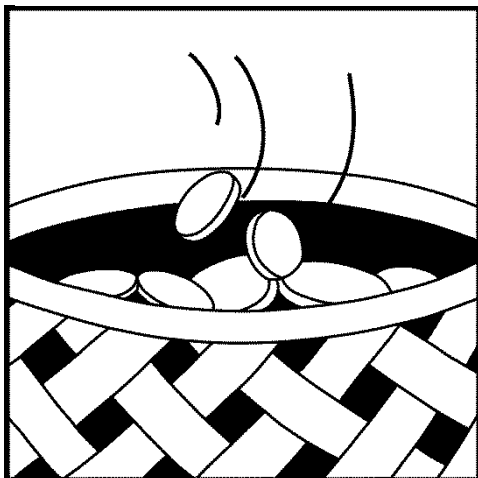
Council Meeting Friday, Nov. 13 at 3 PM

Maranatha Estudio de la Biblia Tuesdays 7 PM

Legacy Food Bank Open Wednesdays 2-5:30 PM

Bible Study Monday, Nov. 16 at 10 AM followed by lunch at a local restaurant!

A Theological Reflection on Today's Gospel



From today's gospel story, several observations can be made related to stewardship. As Jesus honors the widow's tiny contribution, we see how even comparatively small gifts are welcome, meaningful, and valued. The difference between the widow and rich givers illustrates **proportional giving**: The widow gave 100 percent of what she had, while rich people's larger amounts represented a much smaller proportion of their assets. While Jesus' point is made by his examples at both extremes, you and I are likely to be somewhere in the middle—giving a small proportion of moderate incomes, which describes the average giver in the **United States** and **Canada**. Some people become "growth givers," who increase their percentage of giving each year, for example, from 3 to 4 percent of their income. But no matter how much is given, all gifts pale in comparison with Jesus' "once for all" sacrifice (Heb. 9:24-28).

† † †

Want to read more about who nowadays in our country is most generous? Would you believe that it's those who have the least? Check out the reprint from the Atlantic Monthly a few years back. It's on the table in the narthex next to the bulletins.